

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 PC-01 /063 W

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R 110905Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6372

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: THREE HUNDRED FORMER DETAINEES TAKE PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

1. AT CEREMONIES MARKING PC 74TH ANNIVERSARY AT CAMP
CRAME AUGUST 8, PRESIDENT MARCOS ADMINISTERED PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE TO SOME 300 FORMER DETAINEES WHO WERE AT ONE
TIME INCARCERATED IN SAME GYMNASIUM WHERE CEREMONY HELD.
FIGURE OF 300 APPEARED IN BOTH BULLETIN TODAY AND EXPRESS
AND OVER RADIO, WHILE TIME JOURNAL CONTENDS THERE WERE
400 WHO TOOK THE PLEDGE. NAMES OF DETAINEES DID NOT RPT
NOT APPEAR IN PRESS.

2. AP HAD EARLIER REPORTED THAT 4000 WOULD BE RELEASED
BUT THAT SOME WERE ON HUNGER STRIKE FOR UNSPECIFIED
REASON. (THIS COULD EXPLAIN DISCREPANCY BETWEEN TWO
FIGURES.)

3. AMBASSADOR HAD OPPORTUNITY OBSERVE CEREMONY CLOSE
HAND AND NOTICED THAT FIRST ROW OF DETAINEES COMPOSED
PRIMARILY OF YOUNG PEOPLE, PRESUMABLY STUDENTS. BACK
ROWS SEEMED HAVE CONSIDERABLE REPRESENTATION FROM THUG
ELEMENT. NOT ALL DETAINEES SEEMED ANXIOUS TO TAKE PLEDGE
AND SOME SEEMED TO RECOIL FROM HAVING TO SHAKE HANDS WITH
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PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE HIS ASSIDUOUS EFFORT DEFINE AWAY
POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRESIDENT MAY FEEL UNDER SOME
PRESSURE, ESPECIALLY AFTER VISITS OF EUROPEAN PARLIA-
MENTARIANS, CODEL WOLFF, ETC., TO DEMONSTRATE TANGIBLE
PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE. SULLIVAN

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NNN

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